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Study: persecution on rise worldwide

WASHINGTON (BP) — Social hostilities relating to religion or government restrictions on religion rose substantially for more than 2.2 billion people — nearly a third of the world's total population — between 2006 and 2009, according to a new study released by Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion and Public Life.

While social hostilities rose most noticeably in Europe, the study, titled *Rising Restrictions on Religion*, also found that social hostilities involving religion have been rising significantly in China, Thailand, and Vietnam, according to a summary of the research released August 9.

Much of the tension in Europe centered around the region's rapidly growing Muslim population but in some cases also reflected rising anti-Semitism and antagonism toward minorities such as Jehovah's Witnesses, the report noted.

"In France, members of Parliament began discussing whether women should be allowed to wear the burqa, and President Nicolas Sarkozy said the head-to-toe covering was 'not welcome' in French society," the report stated. "The French government also put pressure on religious groups it considers to be cults, including Scientologists. For example, the lead prosecutor in a fraud case involving the Church of Scientology sought to have the group declared a 'criminal enterprise.'

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, called the study's findings unsurprising and noted that Christians are persecuted in greater proportions than any other religious group worldwide.

"As a serving member of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, which monitors the state of religious freedom around the world, these dismal research results are not surprising but instead [are] the acceleration of a downward spiral that has been going on for more than a decade," Land told Baptist Press. "Religious



PERSECUTED — Chinese authorities' campaign to control the spread of Christianity, including this 2009 destruction of facilities owned by a house church, reflect an uptick in global hostility toward religion as reported in new study by the Pew Research Center. The facilities were owned by a house church in Linfen, a city of more than four million people in northeast China. (BP photo)

freedom around the world is in decline from Russia to Africa, almost everywhere in the Middle East, and in Asia. It's caused great concern for all freedom-loving people.

"Christians should be praying for their brothers and sisters who are undergoing persecution around the world, and it is Christians who are disproportionately being persecuted around the world."

Five of the 10 countries that registered substantial increases in social hostilities were in Europe: Bulgaria, Denmark, Russia, Sweden and the United Kingdom, according to the report.

Nearly one-third of the countries in the Middle East-North Africa region saw increased government restrictions on religion, the report said.

Egypt ranked in the top five percent of all countries on both government restrictions and social hostilities involving religion. Indonesia was the only other country in the world that had scores as high as Egypt on both measures.

Most of the countries that had substantial increases in social hostilities or government restrictions involving religion already had high levels of hostilities or restrictions, the report noted. Nearly half the countries that substantially decreased in restrictions or hostilities already registered low levels of restrictions or hostilities.

That suggests a shift taking place in which restrictions are getting higher in countries where they already were relatively high, while restrictions are de-

creasing in countries where they already were relatively low, the report said.

"There seems to be somewhat of a polarization," particularly in countries with constitutional prohibitions against blasphemy, said Brian Grim, the study's primary researcher, in an interview with Religion News Service. "When you have one set of restrictions in place, then it's easier to add on."

The report also found the extent of violence and abuse related to religion increased in more places than it decreased during the 2006-2009 period. Instances of violence ranged from damage to or destruction of personal or religious properties to individuals being killed, physically abused, imprisoned, detained or displaced from their homes.

Crimes, malicious acts, or violence motivated by religious hatred or bias occurred in nearly three-fourths of all countries. The number of countries that experienced mob violence related to religion rose from 38 (19%) as of mid-2008 to 52 (26%) as of mid-2009.

Christians faced incidents of either social or government harassment in 130 countries (66%) and Muslims experienced persecution in 117 countries (59%). Hindus and Buddhists faced harassment in far fewer places — 14% and eight percent, respectively — even though together they account for roughly one-fifth of the world's population, the report found.

Although Jews comprise less than one percent of the world's population, social or government harassment of Jews was reported in 38% of the world's countries.



Ten countries identified in the report as very high in hostilities involving religion were Iraq, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Somalia, Indonesia, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Israel, and Egypt. The 10 countries registering very high government restrictions were Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, China, Maldives, Malaysia, Myanmar (Burma), Eritrea, and Indonesia.



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School time, prayer time

Kids are sad; parents are elated. Lines are long, traffic is at a fever pitch, and patience is low, but that's all right. It's back-to-school time across Mississippi.

Tenderfoot parents are experiencing this phenomenon for the first time with both excitement and anxiety, while parents on the other end of the time line approach their final back-to-school week with — you guessed it — excitement and anxiety. We should say a prayer for all of them.

We should also pray for teachers and school administrators everywhere. So committed are they to their life mission that they are willing to forsake better salaries, waive better working conditions, and endure extreme pressure from all directions just to educate our children. There are very few higher and more precious callings.

Many of those teachers and school administrators are Mississippi Baptists.

Many of them pray for their peers and for the students with whom they are entrusted, ever mindful of the legal and career ramifications of doing so in public. Many of them conducted prayer meetings and prayer walks in and around their schools over the past few weeks in preparation for the new school year, again mindful of the consequences of doing so.

They need all the spiritual support they can get. In California, children as young as kindergarten are required to declare what they believe their gender to be — male or female, the child gets to decide whether they are a boy or a girl regardless of anatom-

"SHE'S JUST STARTED TO KINDERGARTEN AND ALREADY I CAN FEEL MY NEST BEGINNING TO EMPTY!"



ical facts. Refusal to follow the state's mandate by a school board or a principal or teacher can trigger a full-blown investigation by that state's attorney general.

In several hot spots around the country, battles rage between the true believers of evolution and proponents of intelligent design. Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons will be stripped of any spiritual meaning and renamed "harvest festivals" and "winter celebrations." (Halloween, however, will still be allowed under its traditional name.)

GUEST OPINION:

Jackson's *The Help* has faith themes



By Phil Boatwright
Kansas City, Kn.

comically and poignantly bear through a passed-down social bigoted, reminding viewers of how far the civil rights movement has come.

In the film, a black pastor encourages his congregation to love others, even their enemies, even those who do them injustice. This is the catalyst for the main maid, Aibileen, wonderfully brought to screen life by Academy Award nominee Viola Davis, who eventually speaks out despite the threatening consequences.

Though we see the hypocrisy of those who use the church more as a sorority, *The Help* brings home the need for faith and the application of Christ's teachings. *The Help* is funny, poignant, and inspiring — one of the best films of the year.

At a recent press junket, I found one question resonated

with several of those involved in the production. How does faith play into this film? This is what they said:

• **Viola Davis:** "A lot of black people in that day got strength from their Christianity. Because you know the whole power of Christianity is that God loves you no matter what. It's an undeserved love, but it's constant and it's there... That faith served Aibileen well, because there's no evidence in her life that she is deserving of anything."

• **Kathryn Stockett:** "Being a southerner, having grown up in a Christian family, it was so important for me to understand how each character felt and stood with God. Aibileen, a gentler, more traditional character, had a close commu-

nication with God. She wrote down her prayers rather than speaking them because she felt like she could go back and erase, edit them in order to get it right. She wanted to make sure she was asking for exactly the right things."

• **Chris Columbus** (one of the movie's producers): "I've always found that historically people growing up in a working class, blue-collar environment seem to support the church, because not only does it give them a sense of community, but also a sense of hope. These are people who may not like their jobs, or feel fulfilled by their work. So, their sense of spirituality and community comes on Sunday in church. That's an important part of their lives and we couldn't ignore that fact. It had to be in the movie."

Editor's note: Boatwright reviews films from a Christian perspective for Baptist Press. Caution: *The Help* includes about seven obscenities and six profanities (including God's name abused four times). A crude reference to feces is one of the plot's main devices. For more details on the content, visit PreviewOnline.org.

Mentioning God is *verboten*, a violation of church and state separation under the bizarre arguments of liberal extremist groups like the ACLU. Judeo-Christian subjects are off-limits, while fringe "religions" are highlighted and celebrated.

Christian student groups must get a federal court order to hold meetings at the school, while homosexual student groups are welcomed with open arms. Religious-themed clothing is not permissible, but the display of tongue piercings and offensive symbols is protected.

Lastly, for all the reasons above and for many, many more reasons, we should pray for the students.

In the coming weeks and months of this new school year, even the most sheltered children will be bombarded with ideas and temptations that could not have been imagined just a generation ago — public and private schools alike.

Our prayers for Christian students should be two-fold. First, we should pray that they will remain spiritually grounded and steadfast against the allure and bright lights in which the world wraps sin. We should pray that their discernment will be strong enough to avoid the snares and pitfalls they will encounter.

Secondly, we should pray without ceasing for their witness to non-believers. Although fringe elements in the Southern Baptist Convention are advocating abandonment of what they call "God-less" schools, our command from our Savior is to take the Gospel to the world (Matthew 28:18-20). Pray that they will remain faithful to this most important mission in the face of adversity, and pray that you will be a shining example to light their way.

Seminary student crowned Miss Black USA

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Ocielia Gibson impressed judges at the Miss Black USA Scholarship Pageant 2011, when asked how the nation could improve the high school graduation and college entry rates of African Americans.

The ministry has reached more than 1,000 young women throughout Gibson's native state of Texas and in Arkansas, edifying them through three initiatives:

- The Ultimate Beauty Dish, a series of workshops designed to teach young women about true self-identity.

- The Ultimate Beauty Girls' Summits, an annual summit featuring "award-winning female specialists and speakers" discussing sexual purity and successful womanhood.

- RENEW HER Project, giving a "pink pocket Bible" to young women who come to Christ through the ministry but who do not have a Bible of their own.

Gibson, a women's ministry student at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, subsequently was crowned Miss Black USA on August 9.

Her answer during the pageant flowed from a passion for women's ministry that God placed on her heart as a teenager. "As a 16-year-old who had recently given my life to Christ," Gibson writes on her website, "I sat in my mother's living room one night watching music videos on TV. Gradually, with each video I watched — and each girl I saw degraded — I began to grieve tremendously in my heart."

She also questioned her own beauty because of unexplained hives that would appear on her skin. Her self-esteem plummeted as other children called her "leopard, spotted-bodied girl, alligator skin, and ugly."

In an interview with The Seattle Medium, Gibson said she had to overcome these issues and learn to believe in herself. "I had to truly believe that even though I had those physical flaws, regardless of that, I was a beautiful woman," she told the African American newspaper.

Terri Stovall, dean of women's programs at Southwestern Seminary, hopes Gibson will be able to use this opportunity as a platform for ministry.

"Ocielia Gibson is a woman of strength who has overcome much, which has enabled her to fully understand that beauty is more than outward appear-

ance," Stovall said. "She is a strong role model to teen girls, especially girls of color, at a time when positive role models can be hard to find.

Now that she wears the Miss Black USA crown, Gibson hopes she will be able to spread the message of More Than a Pretty Face Inc. to more young women across the nation.

The faith-based ministry seeks to encourage young women to live in purity, to help them discover their true self-

"[either] keep wallowing in that self-pity or to just hold my head high and be the best that I can be even with those physical flaws."

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SEPTEMBER 11, 2011

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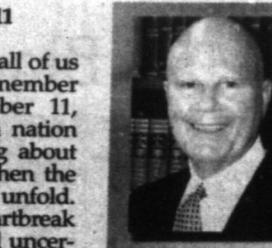
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CMBG RGGS CRGF-
GIVFG DPCV
WVDFAGNHGA, BPS CV
BNN CRG INVEM, VHGF
CRG ZRKR CRG RVNW
YRVAC RBCR OBSD
WVD VHGFAGGFA, CV
IGGS CRG ERDFER VI
YVS, ZRKR RG RBCR
UDF3RBAGS ZKCR RKA
VZP TNVVS.

BECA CZGPCW: CZG-
PCW-GKYRC

Clue: W = Y

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Twenty-one: Twenty-five



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

In just a few weeks, all of us individually will remember our story of September 11, 2001. Collectively as a nation we will all be thinking about that September day when the unthinkable began to unfold. While tragedy and heartbreak came to many, fear and uncertainty came to all. This year, a decade later, September 11 will be on Sunday. Of course, all across the land there will be memorials, rallies, prayer meetings, and somber remembrances of 10 years ago. I want to encourage all of our churches to plan for a special time of prayer as you gather for worship on that day.

It will be a day to look backward. Regardless of whether or not you were watching the live news coverage from New York when one of the Twin Towers had been struck by a plane and were wondering what happened, or saw in live coverage another plane hit the other tower, or you just saw the coverage that began to unfold the rest of that day, it was a day like none other. Later we would hear that the Pentagon had been struck. Then we heard that a plane had gone down in Pennsylvania. The president, who was in Florida at the time, was whisked away somewhere, and we wondered what was next.

Looking back, the thing that I remember most was the earnest, incredible prayer experiences that unfolded not just in our state but across the nation. There were no scheduled prayer meetings that I knew of, but during the day and into the night I was a part of five prayer gatherings as people bowed before Heaven. I have heard so many stories from the folks who lived through the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and about the announcement that went out all across the nation that we had been

attacked. Even that was somewhat different, in that we knew the world was at war then and the coverage by the news media was not as graphic as now. The island where it took place was thousands of miles from the shores of America. Still, it was similar, but now it was us.

In the hours that followed, it became more and more apparent that thousands were killed, a plane load of people had died in Pennsylvania, multiple deaths had taken place at the Pentagon, and it was impossible to calculate how many had been trapped in the Towers as they fell. We do not need to forget, for the reality is that we live in that same world with those same kinds of issues and people who are filled with the same kind of hatred for our country today as they were 10 years ago.

We will look backward, but we will also look upward. I remember as though it were yesterday the Sunday that followed 9-11. I was already scheduled to preach at a church on that Sunday, and I went wondering what that worship service would be like. Would the people come? What kind of attitude would prevail and what kind of spirit would move among us? When I arrived and began to speak to some of the people, obviously the topic of conversation was what we had experienced that week. When we gathered in the house of God that Sunday, the attendance was abnormally high.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SENIOR ADULT GET-A-WAY FOR THE DAY PROGRAM is now available for booking. The program includes a Southern Gospel concert, a hot lunch, and a free gift for each attendee from our gift shop. The cost is \$10.00 per person. To book your outing, contact Rev. Richard C. Arceneaux at 601-807-1755.

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even greater. We have had wonderful young men and women who have died protecting and defending our freedom in numbers larger than those who died on 9-11. Our country is in turmoil. Our debt increases and the value of our money decreases. As we approach the year of the election, we wonder who could lead us and bring our nation together. I would simply point out that regardless of who is chosen, the election will not be the ultimate answer — because our living Lord is the ultimate answer — so as we meet and as we pray, we will look upward.

It will also be a day when we look forward. God help us not to just think on the 10th anniversary about what happened and spend a few minutes turning to the Lord in prayer, but help us to have that question in our hearts and on our lips that the Apostle Paul asked on the Damascus Road: "Lord, what would You have me to do?" It is a personal question that must have a public response from God's people. It is not enough for us just to spend a lot of time thinking about what others ought to do, whether they are in Washington, Jackson, or some country across the world. What would God have you to do? Your light will make a difference to someone and your life can make an impact if you will do what He asks you to do. So look forward to that gathering on September 11, 2011, look backward, look upward, and then answer with your heart, your hands, and your gifts to see what God is going to do through you.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

MS POSITIONS

HOULKA FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN HOULKA, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH & CHILDREN DIRECTOR. Resumes may be e-mailed to houkakbc@yahoo.com or mail to P.O. Box 205, Houkka, MS. 38850

PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE SEEKS RESUMES FOR FULL TIME SENIOR PASTOR, upon the retirement of their

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resume via fax or email at

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MAGNOLIA BAPTIST CHURCH IN LAUREL, MS IS IN NEED OF A PART

TIME MINISTER OF STUDENTS.

We are accepting resumes through the end of August. Please send resume to: Magnolia

Baptist Church, 1040 Wansley Rd,

Laurel, MS 39440.

For additional information, call the church office at 601-829-1004.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

House Tops

Matthew 10:27 NAS

August 25, 2011

House Tops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

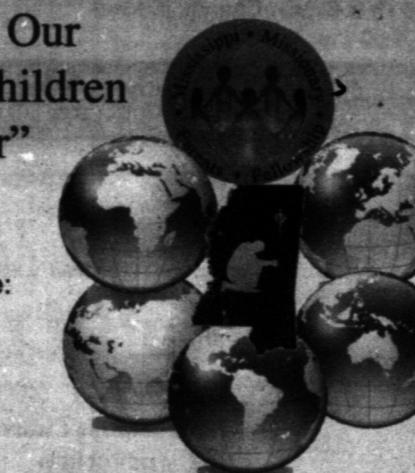
Mississippi Missionary Parents Fellowship Fall Retreat

"Covering Our Missionary Children in Prayer"

Sept. 16-17

Registration deadline:
Sept. 9

Hosted at
Garaywa Camp and Conference Center



Mississippi Missionaries Fellowship

"Unhindered by Fixing our Eyes on Jesus"

Guest speakers
Matt & Shea
Dwayne & Donna

Sept. 17, 8:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.
Hosted at Garaywa Camp and Conference Center
Registration deadline: Sept. 9

*Lodging available for Friday night, Sept. 16

"Creating a Culture of Growth"

PASTORS' WORKSHOP
August 29, 2011
9 a.m. to noon



Dr. Larry LeBlanc, II
Larry LeBlanc believes in discipleship through leaders equipped according to their gifts, public worship that is Christ exalting, small groups that focus on relationship building, evangelism carried out in missions and community ministry, and church government carried out effectively.

For more information contact Alan Woodward at 601.292.3308 or a Woodward@mbcb.org

Rev. Israel Cox
Israel Cox feels called to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus by sharing the timeless truths of the Bible in fresh, creative and practical ways. His greatest desire is to lead Crosspoint Church to be a lighthouse to the coast, and a safe place to bring unchurched friends and neighbors.

Student Ministry Training

Road Trip

Training for all your student leaders

Bring your entire student ministry team to this free event [supper included]

Breakout sessions will include:

Engaging Students in Bible Study, Reaching Students for Christ, Involving Students in Worship and Creative Arts, Missions: It's a Guy Thing and Missions: It's a Girl Thing.

[participants will be able to choose 2 breakout sessions]

Mon. Aug. 29, Batesville - First Baptist Church

Tues. Aug. 30, Greenville - First Baptist Church

Thurs. Sept. 1, Philadelphia - First Baptist Church

Tues. Sept. 6, Clinton - Parkway Baptist Church

Please contact René Edwards at redwards@nbc.org or 601-968-3800 with the name of your church and the number of volunteers you're bringing along for the ride.

Fall Bible Drill Retreat
October 7-8, 2011
Garaywa • Clinton, Mississippi

Includes program tracks for

- Children Grades 4-6
- Children's Bible Drill teachers
- Students Grades 7-12
- Student Bible Drill teachers
- Student Speakers
- Tournament (Grades 10-12)

Questions & dbrashier@mbcb.org

January Bible Study Preview ~ September 22, 2011

THE PURSUIT
Studies in Ecclesiastes
CHASING ANSWERS TO LIFE'S QUESTIONS

Speaker: Dr. William (Bill) Tolar
Where: First Baptist Church, Jackson
When: 9:00 a.m. — noon



For more information contact Nels Young, Ministry Relations Director, (662) 891-5742 or garycherylsbo@att.net

Mississippi Baptist Christian Educators Fellowship
Fall Luncheon
October 31, 2011
First Baptist Church, Jackson
CLC Auditorium

Focus Group
Pastors
Ministers of Education
Youth Ministers
Other Age Group Leadership

Time: 9:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10 — (Meal)

Personnel
Larry Leblanc — Pastor — FBC, Summit
Craig Richardson — Discipleship — FBC, Summit
Steve Stone — Assoc. Exec. Dir., Church Growth, MBCB Jackson

Features
"Telling the Rest of the Story"
Break-out Sessions
Update on the movie *Courageous*
Panel on "Where God is at Work"

Reservations
Meal reservations are required. To request a reservation form e-mail Paul Harrell at pharrell@mbcb.org or call 601.927.7237.

MBCEF Program Leaders

Bill Ready
President
AMD, Kemper

Brian Frank
President Elect
Minister of Education
FBC, Picayune

Single Life Conferences

Saturday, Sept. 17
Singles' Round-Up
Neshoba Association Center, Philadelphia
For more info: 601-656-1820

Friday, Sept. 23
Singles' Round-Up
First Baptist Church, Saltillo
Special Guest: Becky Brown, Richland
Light Supper (Please RSVP)
For more info: 662-869-5742

Monday, Oct. 3
Northcrest Baptist Church, Meridian
For more info: 601-482-3498
garycherylsbo@att.net
6:30 Light Supper (Please RSVP)
*Door prizes

7:15 Introductions/Conferences
"Picking up the Pieces"
James Haynes, FBC, Biloxi
"Five Love Languages for Singles"
Tom Crocker, LifeWay Rep.



CSC
Collegiate Student Convention

Speaker: Ben Stuart (Brookhaven, College Station)
For all college students
Find opportunities to be involved
Get into about summer missions

Contact your BSC Director or
church minister or
regular or
Contact
Ministry at
662.869.1820
or mbcb.org/mission_strategy/csc

Sponsored by Collegiate Ministry and
Baptist Student Union • Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board • A Ministry of the Cooperative Program

Don't forget!

Baptist Nursing Fellowship Retreat
for all BNF members,
nurses or medical personnel
interested in medical
missions involvement

Sept. 30
through
Oct. 1
(at Garaywa)

State Missions Goal: \$2,000,000

Your contributions to the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering go to fund ministries like:

- Church Planting
- Cross Cultural Ministries
- College and University Outreach
- Community Mission Projects
- Disaster Relief
- Port Ministry

Please pray about what God would have you discover during Mississippi's state missions emphasis. Also, pray to discover what God wants you to give through the Margaret Lackey Offering.

Undiscovered

Pray this day for...

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Pray for: **Don*** and **Valery Hulsey**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Portugal through church planting, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Tony*** and **Dentia Inmon**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Uruguay through church planting, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Floyd*** and **Sharon Johnston**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Brazil through church planting, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Millard** and **Susan Jones**, IMB missionaries ministering to East Asian and European Peoples in Canada through student evangelism.

Pray for: **Henry*** and **Melinda Kyzar**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in the Czech Republic through personalization, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Timothy*** and **Rebecca Lightsey**, IMB missionaries ministering to East Asian Peoples in the United States through church planting, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Asbury** and **Jeannie Martin**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Argentina through church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Robert*** and **Janice Mooney**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Latvia through strategy coordination, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Stephen*** and **Svetlana Parish**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in the United States through theological education, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **John** and **Sarah Perkins**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in France through strategy coordination, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **John** and **Sarah Perkins**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in France through strategy coordination, church and home outreach and evangelism.

*These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.



2011 Auditions for the 2012 Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra

Open to 9th-12th graders involved in the music ministry
of Mississippi Southern Baptist Churches

Register 2 weeks prior to the audition

SEPT. 8, 2011
4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Fairview Baptist
Church Columbus

SEPT. 15, 2011
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church
Summit

SEPT. 18, 2011
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church
Wiggins

OCT. 15, 2011

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Baptist Building
Jackson

SEPT. 11, 2011
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Emmanuel Baptist
Church Grenada

SEPT. 17, 2011
10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
William Carey
University, Hattiesburg

OCT. 6, 2011
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church
Meridian

OCT. 16, 2011

2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Baptist Building
Jackson

For more information: 1-800-748-1651, ext. 206; cwtaylor@mbcb.org
Sponsored by the Church Music Department | Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson

*A Woman's Guide
to Joyful Living*
Rhonda H. Kelley

MINISTERS' WIVES
CONFERENCE

Monday, October 31, 2011
FBC Chapel, Jackson
1:15 – 4:45 p.m.

To participate you must register online at:
www.mbc.org/mission_strategy/wmu/education/online_training.aspx.
Online registration is now open.

For more information about online training
please contact

Tammy Anderson
in the Mississippi WMU office
at 800-748-1651, ext. 323, or
tanderson@mbcb.org.

HouseTops

Aug. 26 - Sept. 8, 2011

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. Fellowship Church, Starkville: recent revival, led by Campers on Mission of Mississippi. Shown are the participants.



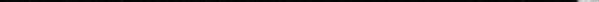
1. Fellowship Church, Starkville

2. Vardaman Church, Kemper County: Homecoming, Sept. 4; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish meal; Gene Martin, speaker; Don and Toni Stovall, music.



7. First Church, Foxworth

3. Moak's Creek Church, Lincoln Association: Homecoming, Sept. 4; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch. Mike Alexander, pastor; Pat Rice, music.



4. Concord Church, Booneville: Revival, Sept. 11-15; Sun., fellowship meal, 5:30 p.m.; Lane Finley, speaker; Kenny Graves, music; Robert E. Walker, pastor.

5. Malmaison Church, Carrollton: 50th anniversary, Sept. 4; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and singing; Barnett Fielder, speaker.

6. Pine Hill Church, Enterprise: Homecoming, Aug. 28, 10 a.m., followed by lunch.

8. Kokomo Church, Kokomo: Centennial, Sept. 18, 10 a.m.-noon, followed by dinner on the grounds; Kinsmen Quartet, music.

10. New Haven Church, Terry: Homecoming, Aug. 28, 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Kinsmen Quartet, music.

11. Southway Church, Brookhaven: 60th anniversary, Sept. 11; worship, 10 a.m., followed by

special music, and other activities.

singing and dinner on the grounds; Millard Caulder and Malcom Massey, Gloryland Quartet, music.

12. Fellowship Church, Jasper County: Revival, Sept. 18-23; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon., 7 p.m.; Jim Hill, speaker; Joel Hill, music; Roger Ivey, pastor.

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THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director
P.O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242
www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

JULY 2011 HONORS

All Teachers, Corinth Elem. School
Ms. Beverly Lilly
Office Staff, Corinth Elem. School
Ms. Beverly Lilly
Mary Evelyn Bowie
Ms. Julie H. Halfacre
Mrs. Eunice Fuqua
Mr. & Mrs. R. N. Humphreys
Dr. John McCall
Gerald & Patricia Hasselman
Mr. Jim McKesson
Mr. Michael McKesson
Tayna Nelson, Asst. Prin.
Corinth Elem Schl
Mitchell & Judy Smith
Ms. Joyce Hardy
Denise Webb-Harrell, Prin.
Corinth Elem Schl
Ms. Beverly Lilly
Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Willie Ratliff

MEMORIALS

Thomas Newell Turner Jr.
Frank & Sandra Crosthwait
Sarah Anderson
Terry & Julia Blalock
Mrs. Mary Nell Beasley
Aultman
Sharon Blevins & Family
William, Barbara, Jason & Brian Beasley
Ms. Carol Buckalew
Ms. Lorraine Fitzgerald
Mr. Otho T. Graham
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Miller
Joe & Virginia Napier
Ms. Geraldine Roberts
Sammy H. Herrin & Willene
Betty Jane & Cotton Stephens
Ms. Sandra Beasley
Margarette Herrin & Family

Thomas "Tommy" Calloway
Jeanette & Allen Mapp
Mrs. Donna Jean Carlson
Larry & Sylvia Melton
Britten Carr
Unity BC, Magnolia
Mary Nell Chance
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis L. Cranford
Mr. Lawrence Chesser Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Parker
Mrs. Joy B. Roberts
Bill Clark
Mrs. Edna H. Hosemann
Mrs. Joy Cliburn
Boyd & Linda Dingus
Austin, Ryan & Danielle Dingus
Mrs. Joanne K. Bain
Danny & Gwen Daves
Mr. Morris Honea
Mr. William H. Huntington
Mrs. Libby Patterson
Paul & Jimmie Rankin
Mr. Bob White
Ms. Carolyn Whitehead
Everett & Claudine Wilson
Wayne & Dot Wood
Anthony & Linda Kay
Mr. Ralph M. Taylor
Nan Cottingham
Jay & Darlene Gore
George Cowart
Concord BC, McCall Creek
Mrs. Dorris "Dot" Nell Crel
Dennis & Kathy McPhail
Mrs. Barbara Crespo
Jeanette & Allen Mapp
Jim Crise
Rich & Frances Dufenbaugh
Mr. James Cummings
Jack & Bonnie Knight
Mr. Jack Cupit
James & Diane Copeland
Teresa Daniel
Mrs. Sheila Huffman
Betty Davidson
Algoma BC
Jack Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Brown
Carmie Dose
John & Gayle Watson
Candi Doty
Elizabeth & Keith Sangwin
Mr. Orville Driskill
Curtis & Kaye Buchanan
Mrs. Dorothy J. Crocker
Bill Dubose Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Loveless
Mrs. Mary Martha Dyer
Jay & Darlene Gore
Dorothy Edwards
Ms. Lawanda Chandler
Dr. James Edwards
Mrs. Joy B. Roberts
Mrs. Dorothy Edwards
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Brents Jr.
Miss Pam Jones
Curtis & Kaye Buchanan
Mrs. Eloise McNeer Ellington
Mrs. Peggy Shuckrow
Mr. Gregory "Greg" Fagan
Mrs. Joy B. Roberts
Annette & John Drennan
Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Parker
George Fletcher
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart V. Allen
Ray & Peggy Cothran
Mrs. James I. Hobby
Pat & Mary Ingram
Mr. & Mrs. E. E. Fortenberry
Glen & Annette Fortenberry
Jimmie Franklin
Fred & Maudie Threatt alias Fmly
Mary Catherine Fuller
Barbara Fuller
Geneva Gardner
Mr. Bobby C. Gardner
Bob Garrett
Jimmie & Cindy Crain
Thelma Broom
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth "Bubba" Williams
Bet Brown
Richard & Annette Jones
Mrs. Elizabeth Browning
Mrs. Robert F. Neely Jr.
Augustine Burch
Ms. Vicki Swain
Ma Burrow
Herman & Sharon Dungan
Mrs. Alene Henderson
Ray Butler
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs
James & Diane Copeland

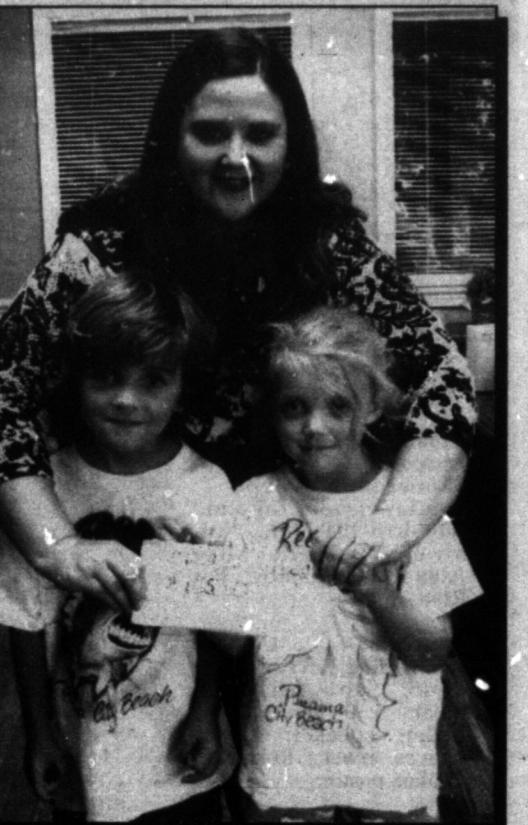
Lucile Grayson
Dixie Baptist Church, Hattiesburg
Mrs. Madge Grice
Unity BC, Magnolia
Johnny M. Hammons
Don & Edith Wallace
Jaunice K. Hardy
Annette & John Drennan
Jennifer Harper
Grady & Jennifer Yeager
Drew Harrington
Mr. & Mrs. Jackie Wooley & Jordan
Eva Lois Harris
Mrs. Betty Jo Schmidt
Mr. Harold Harris
Mrs. Ouida B. Holt
Mr. Jimmy Havard
James & Diane Copeland
Adelaide Hawkins
Ron & Betty Bennett
Dennis Hayes
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Henry & Theresa
Dennis Hayes
Mrs. Katie H. Butler
Don Healy
Jeanette & Allen Mapp
Mary Blanche "Granny" Heflin
Harry & Gail O'Neal
John Hemphill
Buddy & Linda Meyer
Mrs. Elaine Herring
Mr. W. B. Herring Jr.
Mrs. Betty Hill
Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Parker
Pauline Holmes
Barbara Fuller
Mr. Jimmy W. Hones
Praise SSC, FBC McComb
Mr. & Mrs. Eli McElveen
Guylene Hones & Children
Liberty High School Class of 1962
James & Diane Copeland
W. J. & Leone Howard
Mr. Mike Davis
Mr. Acey Howle
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Newsom
Brian Patrick Hughes
Joann Lewis & Family
Mary Frances & Billy Parnell
Ms. Lucille T. Patrick
Geneva Quarles & Family
Mr. J. B. Hunt
Mr. & Mrs. C. Gene Cryder
Mrs. Maurine Jefcoat
Eunice SSC, Yale Street BC
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Brents Jr.
Albert Ray Jones
Arthur & Alicia P. Burnett
Mrs. Sarah H. Hazen
Austin Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Anderson
Miss Pam Jones
Curtis & Kaye Buchanan
Betty Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Glen Polk
Trey & Amanda Whitley
Mr. George Kelly
Danny & Gwen Daves
Mr. Bill Killebrew
Curtis & Kaye Buchanan
Bill Kincannon
Denny & Jane Landreth
Diane King
Mrs. Joanne K. Bain
Gwin & Lane Gordon
Ms. Natalia Maynor
Mrs. Autrey King
Jimmy & Agalyn Goff
Teresa Kinsey
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Haddox
Mrs. Myrtilla Burris Kirk
Paul & Sharon Ervin
Max & Dunreath
Holleyman
Keith & Sandee King
James Paul & Arlenee Robinson
John & Emily Brooks
Mrs. Myrtle A. Holloway
John & Nancy Miller
Mrs. Jim Salley
Ms. Annette Waite
Cecil & Penny Washington
Miles & Paula Jeffery
Mr. George Kish
Ms. Judi T. Beall
Mr. Howard Lane
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Glen Polk
Trey & Amanda Whitley
Ruth Lee
Ruth McDonald & Family

Twin brother & sister Ross and Reese Simmons, of Brandon, present Celeste Cade, BCV Public Relations Associate, with \$250 they collected at their birthday party. The children asked those attending the party to bring \$5 instead of a gift for them and donated all the money to The Baptist Children's Village.

The NEW India Nunnery Campus, which was relocated from Jackson to Star, is now open and receiving children. We need some help with the following as we finish settling in:

- ♦ 2 new computers (one for each cottage) for the children to use for homework assignments
- ♦ 36 in. or bigger flat screen TV for girls cottage
- ♦ Sponsor to buy fabric for window treatments and tablecloths. Staff will help pick matching fabric for rooms.
- ♦ Sponsor and volunteers to purchase and install playground equipment for both cottages i.e., sturdy swings sets, slides, etc.
- ♦ Lawn equipment i.e. electric Weed Eater, leaf blower and extension cords
- ♦ Wal-Mart, Target or Penny's gift card to purchase floor rugs, runners and lamps
- ♦ Beanbag chairs: 2 brown for boys, 2 beige for girls
- ♦ Spice rack for boys cottage (with spices)
- ♦ Wal-Mart card to buy trunks while in stock during back-to-school season

Contact Celeste Cade, Public Relations Associate, 601-922-2242 or ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com, if you can help.



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS AUGUST 28, 2011

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE Agree with One Another

Genesis 13:1-12; Romans 12:16-18; 15:5-6

By Beth Bowman

My college roommate, Linda Halfacre Osborne and I were the shining examples of how not to live with one another in unity. Oh, she and I got along splendidly—it was the other four roommates in our apartment at Mississippi State. Who knew that keeping the dishes washed, the doors locked and the living room free of clutter was going to be so important to them? The two semesters must have been a challenge for the four of them and on their behalf; they tried to be agreeable as much as humanly possible with two messy, creative, whimsical cohabitants. No wonder none of them signed up to room with us another year!

Bowman

lenges to unity and agreement. Abram had just returned from Egypt. Lot was with him as they made their way to Bethel, where Abram had built an altar before. As you may remember, Lot's father Haran had passed away and Abram did not have any children at this point. Lot was closer to Abram and Sarah than a regular nephew; he was more like a son to them. Both Abram and Lot were very wealthy with many flocks, herd and tents. The combination of their wealth was so great that the land could not support them. Their herdsman began to argue with each other. Abram, as the leader, took the lead and presented a fair and workable solution. He offered Lot the chance to go toward Jordan or toward Canaan. Lot chose for himself and his people to go right toward the land of

practical application for agreement
Romans 12:16-18
These verses give some real practical helps for agreeing with our brothers and sisters in Christ. References below are all from the NIV.

Romans 12:17 "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." If it's in your power to create peace and doesn't violate your spiritual convictions, be willing to compromise for the greater good.

Reason for Unity Romans 15:5-6

I dismiss the idea that we need to get along to get along. I want to have a compelling reason for

unity. The last part of this lesson gives us that. Romans 15:6 states, "so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Unity and agreement among believers bring about blessing and honor God.

Agreements on non essential issues help us save our energy and time for spiritual priorities, not personal preferences. When our churches argue within their walls or with other churches in the community, God is not blessed and God is not honored.

And, those desiring to know more about faith in Christ are not compelled to Him. Take the high road; keep focused on unity within the body as long as the issue doesn't violate scripture.

Let's save our focus and reserve our energy to let others know about our Beautiful Savior and the privilege of following Him. It's too important to do anything else.

Bowman is Minister of Connection at First Church, Brandon, and a speaker for women's events.

Jordan. Abram, in a desire for unity, went in the other direction. As the leader, Abram demonstrated a beautiful example of unity. He trusted in the very same God who had promised him earlier in life that he would make him into a great nation. Although Abram still didn't know the specifics of God's plan, he trusted in God for the future. He knew God's promise to him would be true, regardless of circumstances or location. He presented unity in his family because of his beliefs in the promises of God.

Example of Agreement
Genesis 13:12
Abram and Lot faced challenges to unity and agreement. Abram had just returned from Egypt. Lot was with him as they made their way to Bethel, where Abram had built an altar before. As you may remember, Lot's father Haran had passed away and Abram did not have any children at this point. Lot was closer to Abram and Sarah than a regular nephew; he was more like a son to them. Both Abram and Lot were very wealthy with many flocks, herd and tents. The combination of their wealth was so great that the land could not support them. Their herdsman began to argue with each other. Abram, as the leader, took the lead and presented a fair and workable solution. He offered Lot the chance to go toward Jordan or toward Canaan. Lot chose for himself and his people to go right toward the land of

EXPLORE THE BIBLE Rely on the Lord's Love

Lamentations 3:19-33, 37-39

By Harold Simmons

As we study the book of Lamentations, it helps us if we remember that Jerusalem has been destroyed, the temple is in ruins and a lifestyle is gone. Jeremiah, the accepted writer of the book, is pouring out his deepest sorrow. He does this in five chapters, or dirges (funeral songs). These songs are twenty-two verses long with the exception of chapter three which has sixty-six verses (3x22). The first word of each verse begins with a letter corresponding with the Hebrew alphabet. Each year on the date of the destruction of the temple, the book is read in Jewish worship. It points to the misery of the people of the time.

Simmons

The event causes the prophet to recall his former experience with the Lord. Even in all the turmoil he remembers the Lord's love and intervention on behalf of those who seek Him. Reading this portion of Lamentations reminds me of Job and his reaction to the happenings that befall him and the faithfulness of Job to the Lord. In all the tragic things that came to Job, he clung to his belief in a loving God as did Jeremiah.

When suffering and pain come to us, it brings no joy to the Lord. He had rather have us enjoying His favor but our actions bring corrective actions from God. His purpose is to bring us into the right relationship with Him.

Acknowledging the Lord's power
(Lamentations 3:27-33)

Jeremiah is expressing the

Expressing painful memories
(Lamentations 3:19-20)

Jeremiah is expressing the

Recognizing the Lord's purpose
(Lamentations 3:27-33)

Jeremiah said that it is

good for a person to learn early in life to have divine judgment to come upon him/her for their sins because that will give the person time to think about the purpose God has for the judgment. God is giving discipline for the purpose of turning people around toward Him. God is not being sadistic but He caused hurt for a reason or purpose. Even in judgment, God stands with open arms to welcome us back into His presence because He still loves us. In the New Testament, we are told that while we were still sinners that Christ died for us.

God is not being inconsistent. They need to recognize that He has the power to bring blessings and to bring judgments. Blessings are because God loves us. Judgment is because God loves us. We need to recognize that God has the power to do both and still love us. The adverse conditions come because of our own sinful actions.

The New Testament declares that God is love. Hold on to that no matter what happens to us.

Simmons is currently interim pastor at Cascilla Church, Cascilla.

For Jeremiah and others living in Judah, there seems to be

an inconsistency in the actions of God. He did so much to bring them out of Egypt, to help them defeat the inhabitants of the land promised to them and to help them build a great nation. Now, He has allowed a nation to destroy the wonderful city of Jerusalem and the life they had. God had said that He had chosen them from all the nations of the world to be His people. Now they are a people destroyed and deported.

God is not being inconsistent. They need to recognize that He has the power to bring blessings and to bring judgments. Blessings are because God loves us. Judgment is because God loves us. We need to recognize that God has the power to do both and still love us. The adverse conditions come because of our own sinful actions.

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The New Testament declares that God is love. Hold on to that no matter what happens to us.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

**THE BAPTIST
Record**

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital prints are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

STATE SOFTBALL RESULTS



1. Mt. Zion



2. Tuscumbia Baptist



3. Escatawpa Baptist

Mississippi Baptist State Softball Tournament 2011 Men's Class A Winners

1. **1st Place — Mt. Zion, Brookhaven**
 First Row (L-R): Seth Lofton, Jordan Rogers, Jarod Rogers, Travis Smith, Scott Poole, Jody Britt
 Back Row (L-R): Rusty Newman, Justin Smith, David Smith, Joseph Langham, Jonathan Breakfield, Dan VanNorman, Shane Easterling

2. **2nd Place — Tuscumbia Baptist**
 First Row (L-R): Bat Boy Stone Bradley, Tyler Davis, Jordan Davis, Brenton Matthews, Todd Talley, Chip Suggs, Bob Settlemires
 Back Row (L-R): Junior Chapman, Clay Talley, Kevin Miles, Tim Chapman, James Houston, Tim Bradley, Jamie Butler, Zack Hastings

3. **3rd Place — Escatawpa Baptist**
 Front Row (L-R): Adam Graham, Kevin Davis, Stephen Garrard, Shane Turner, Kelly Clarke
 Back Row (L-R): Mark Graham, Aaron Graham, Brandon Bailey, Jordan Bradshaw, Tim McFaul, Scott Garrard, David Graham, Tim McFaul, Sr., Lee Tanner

Mississippi Baptist Chaplains' Association Fall Training Sept. 16

JACKSON, MS. (Special) — The Mississippi Baptist Chaplains' Association fall training will be held in the Skynorm of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Sept. 16, 8 a.m. Endel Lee, national coordinator, Disaster Relief chaplaincy, NAMB and commander, Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy (Reserve Component), speaker. Topics include Code of the Warrior (a personal perspective), what are we seeing among ser-

vice members?, what resources and tools are readily available to service members?, Combat operational stress first aid overview, How can communities and churches assist?, and spiritual considerations in caring for combat veterans. Professional and volunteer chaplains and pastors are invited to attend. For more information, call (800) 748-1651, ext. 334, outside Jackson, or (601) 292-3334 locally to register. Email cwright@mbcb.org. Cost \$10.

COLLEGE NEWS

1. Georgia Baptist educator and Mississippi College graduate, Mike Simoneaux is the new leader at Brewton-Parker College. In late July, the Baptist school's board of trustees unanimously selected Simoneaux to be president after serving as interim president since March 2011. Simoneaux worked as acting president and vice president for advancement at Truett-McConnell College before leading the Brewton-Parker administration on the Mount Vernon, Ga. campus. He is 1965 MC graduate with a bachelor of music education degree. The new Brewton-Parker president received a master's in church music in 1967 and doctorate in music education in 1969, both from New Orleans Seminary.
2. Baptist pastors from Rankin County are invited to Mississippi College's Flowood Center for a luncheon, fellowship time and the opportunity to hear from university leaders. The event is set for September 26 at MC's year-old branch off Lakeland Drive. Pastors begin their meeting at 10:30 a.m. with lunch served at 11:30 a.m. President Lee Royce will serve as the guest speaker and discuss the latest developments at the university.
3. Mississippi College's new soccer complex will be dedicated at noon on August 27th. The 5,000-square-foot building includes spacious locker rooms for men and women, a media room to watch game film, a training room, a 40-person meeting room, coaches' offices and other amenities.



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